

Posted by u/LgFatherAnthrocite 10 hours ago 

They See

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Humans scare me. Not because of their fighting ability, their surprising strength, or even the fact that they are harder to kill than an armored snerklek.

They scared me because they are so observant. I know what you're thinking, what is so scary about being observant?

Humans watch everything. They watch how people talk to each other. Who avoids who. They watch how people move. "Body language" they call it. They say humans are better at observing alien body language than any other known species.

Humans could convey more with a few gestures and facial expressions than most species even realize. I have seen whole conversations happen without a single spoken word. I had been unaware of this for many anums, until a colleague pointed it out to me. I just assumed that looking at each other was a human thing, like their "smile". I never imagined that so much could be conveyed so silently.

Humanity's long association with multiple dependent species, such as cats and dogs, had given them an innate ability to learn foreign body language. Since they were such social creatures, they were just capable with group dynamics as well. As with all species, there are those with more skill at this than others.

I remember the first time I noticed a human actively observing others. I was at a gathering, an informal meetup with several diplomatic corps from several species. He sat on the edge of the gathering, quietly watching how the groups interact with each other. He took notes on a small pad.

He saw me from across the room, and smiled a little. He waved me over.

After introducing himself, he pointed out some of his observations. How the ambassador of one party was facing away from his counterpart, despite being in a conversation. He said this indicated they were only professionally friendly, but didn't actually like one another. He pointed out another couple of ambassadors who were, at least according to him, actually good friends.

He showed me how a whole delegation was basically avoiding interacting with anyone except to make basic greetings. As the party progressed, he pointed out interaction between various members of the delegations. These interactions were what he was there to watch for. He said it would make it easier to make contact through back channels knowing who was friends with whom, and who could "whisper in the ear" of powerful people.

He told me about how he was just good at reading peoples interactions. He said there were specialists who studied every species specific body language. How they would pore over recordings of important people, until they could tell at a glance if someone was lying or not.

Even if it was a lie, it was a terrifying idea. That someone could give away so much without even realizing it. To humans, we are just prey to be observed, and that is why I fear them.